

We are looking at a heavy chapter, but one that is absolutely necessary for us to understand. In Revelation chapter 18, we see the final collapse of the world's economic and commercial system—referred to here as "Babylon."

As we study this, remember that our position is simple: we trust what the Word says. We don't need to force it into a rigid "theological system." We just want to see what the Holy Spirit is teaching us. We know that Jesus saved us when He shed His precious blood on that cross, paying our debt in full, and His resurrection stands as the ultimate declaration that He is God, Savior, and Lord.

The Proclamation of the Fall

Read: Revelation 18:1–3

John sees an angel of great authority descending from heaven, so bright that the earth is illuminated by his glory. This angel cries out with a mighty voice: *"Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!"*

This "Babylon" represents the center of world commerce and godless living. Whether it is the literal ancient city rebuilt or a new center of power, it becomes the "habitation of devils." Notice how the world is intoxicated by her. The nations have drunk the wine of her fornication. This isn't just physical immorality—it's spiritual. When the heart of the world is set on wealth, luxury, and self-rule rather than on God, that is spiritual fornication.

The Call to Come Out

Read: Revelation 18:4–8

I love what we hear next from heaven: *"And I heard another voice from heaven saying, 'Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.'"*

This is the call for believers in the Great Tribulation and it is for believers throughout history. We live *in* the world, but we are not to be *of* it. We are called to be a holy people. The text says her sins have reached unto heaven. The Lord is patient, but there comes a point where the cup of iniquity overflows. Notice the fairness of God's judgment in verse 6: *"Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works."* This is a righteous judgment. Babylon says in her heart, *"I sit as a queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow."* It's the arrogance of human self-sufficiency.

The Suddenness of the Judgment

Read: Revelation 18:9–19

The judgment described here is terrifyingly swift. Verse 8 says it comes in *"one day,"* and later in verses 10, 17, and 19, it says, *"in one hour."*

- The Kings Weep (v. 9–10): They have lived luxuriously with her. They stand *"afar off"* for fear of her torment. This sounds very much like the aftermath of a modern catastrophe—perhaps a nuclear event—where people are afraid to approach due to radiation.

- The Merchants Weep (v. 11–16): They don't mourn because they love the city; they mourn because *"no one buys their merchandise anymore."* Look at the list: gold, silver, precious stones, fine linen, and even *"the souls of men."* That's the tragedy of a godless system—it treats human souls as just another commodity.
- The Shipmasters Weep (v. 17–19): All the world's transportation and logistics come to a screeching halt. Everything they worked for, all that "costliness," is gone in sixty minutes.

Heaven's Reaction and the Finality

Read: Revelation 18:20–24

While the world is weeping, heaven is told to rejoice! Why? Not because we delight in destruction, but because God has finally avenged His people and cleared the way for His kingdom.

John sees a mighty angel take up a stone like a great millstone and cast it into the sea. A millstone is heavy—twelve hundred to fifteen hundred pounds. Once it sinks, it stays down. The angel says, *"Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore."*

The music, the craftsmanship, the light of the candle, and the voice of the bridegroom—all of it will cease. Why? *"For by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints."* The system that rejects God eventually seeks to destroy those who follow Him.

Practical Application

What does this mean for us today? It means we must evaluate our own hearts. Where is your treasure? If your peace and security are tied to the world's economy, you will be shaken when the world is shaken. But if your life is built on the Rock, Jesus Christ, your foundation is eternal. Let us be a people who use the things of this world without being possessed by them.

A Challenge for Believers

I challenge you this week to "come out of her." Look at your life and ask: "Is there any area where I have become 'intoxicated' by the world's way of thinking?" Are you living "delicately" while others are in need? Let us be a holy people, walking circumspectly and in reverence, so that we may be found worthy to stand before the Lord in His kingdom.

An Invitation to the Unbeliever

If you are reading this and you don't know Jesus, I want you to see the futility of building a life on anything other than Him. The world's systems are destined to fail. In one hour, everything you've worked for could be gone. But there is a Savior who loves you. Jesus Christ shed His blood on the cross to pay for your sins. He rose again, proving He has power over death and the grave. He is the Lord.

Don't wait for the judgment. Give your life to Him today. Just say, "Lord Jesus, I'm a sinner. I believe You died for me and rose again. Please come into my life and be my Savior and Lord." He will do it. He will give you a peace that the world cannot give and that the world cannot take away.